Teachers Information Pack

The Languages Challenge is open to **all** students in Years 8, 9 and 10.

This activity provides an opportunity for learners to:

- apply and develop their existing knowledge of foreign languages through **active** learning;
- use and improve **their speaking and listening, reading and writing skills** in foreign languages;
- **explore** new languages and their culture with school mates, family and friends;
- **practice team work, collaborative learning and use their creativity** whilst drawing on a range of skills and understanding how languages apply to ICT, Geography, Languages, Science, Food Technology, Art and Design, English, Music, etc.

Overview

There are 8 tasks on the Challenge from which the students choose 5 to complete. There is also an "other" category to allow students to develop their own ideas.

Teams choose which language they use for each task. They also choose what IT programme or medium to use. Creativity and purpose will ensure teams achieve the highest marks.

While we ask teachers to allow students autonomy and to encourage initiative, we are aware that your support in ensuring that all team members have an equal chance of participating and that teams keep on task is essential.

To assist you, we have developed a set of success criteria and have asked teams to allocate roles for each team member. We suggest you discuss the success criteria with your students before they start on tasks. This will ensure they understand what is expected of them and can apply it when deciding when a task is ready for submission.

The Challenge is meant to be a team effort, where all team members contribute skills, knowledge and effort to the completion of all tasks. Previous participants have let us know how team members led on different tasks. We want to encourage all team members to take the lead in one task but also help their team mates complete the other tasks.

With that in mind, we have provided a description of five roles in the Student Handbook: one for each team member. You will also find that the Submission Form requires teams to specify what role team members took on each task. We hope this will ensure all members have an equal opportunity to participate and the team is not dominated by one or two individuals.

In order to consolidate the learning acquired while completing the tasks and to help us understand the processes and decisions made by the team, we ask each participant to submit a reflective report on the task where s/he has taken the reporter role. Between 300 and 500 words will suffice. We will provide a set of questions to help students organise their thoughts.

The tasks are described in more detail on the individual Task Information Sheets but the summary below provides a quick overview of what is involved.

Task	Suggested Response Format
1. Bake-Off Choose a recipe and present it in a different language.	• Short video or PowerPoint with commentary
2. Lights, Camera, Action! Choose a scene from a sitcom, film or factual programme and re-enact it in another language. Try to do it from memory rather than reading. Use costumes and other props to make it more interesting.	• Video clip *or* • Comic strip with captions
3. Holiday Adventure Design a 5 day tour around a country or region of your choice in another language. Enter the tour on an electronic or hard-copy map. Make sure to include some general information about the country, region or city as well as timeline, images, and information about the places you will visit in your own words.	• Electronic map such as Zee maps **www.zeemaps.com** *or* • Annotated & illustrated printed map
4. Ancient Tales Research and choose a folktale, myth or fable from another culture. Retell it in the original language using pictures to help others understand it. Add subtitles or submit it with a written translation.	• Audio – visual recording + subtitles • May be added to the Language Landscape project **www.languagelandscape.org**
5. Science Experiment Can you make toothpaste? Or perhaps you prefer slime? Choose a science experiment and make a presentation with all the props!	• Film *or* • Photo-story
6. Sing it your Way Choose one of your favourite songs and rewrite it in another language. You can keep the music and the mood but you must write your own lyrics. You can also write a whole new song, if you wish.	• Video clip *or* • Audio file + translation
7. Game Player Choose a traditional game from another culture or make your own game where participants are required to play in another language. Games may also be a tool to learn new vocabulary, or could be related to a book or film.	• Board game *or* • Cards
8. Programming If you are into computers and/or games, you may already know about Scratch, Kodu and/or Microbit. Can your characters speak other languages? Only existing languages are allowed. There are nearly 7,000 languages out there in the world. Vulcan is not one of them!	• Scratch *or* • Microbit *or* • Kodu *or* • Python/Raspberry Pi
9. Other Previous students asked us and here it is: your chance to create your own task. Are you into fashion? Or maybe you dream of being a journalist? As long as there is language in it, it's allowed.	Its all up to you here but try using a medium you haven't used in any of the previous tasks!

As you can see the Languages Challenge is a cross-curricular activity. This is meant to highlight how language skills are useful in all areas: professional or otherwise. You may want to enlist your colleagues from other disciplines. We also strongly encourage you to share your students' best work at an assembly, on a wall display and/or in the school newsletter.

Languages Challenge Rules

- Students must enter in teams of up to **5** students

- Teams must provide an individual **team name** on the submission sheet and on each task

- **Every student in the team must actively contribute to all the tasks.** All team members have responsibility for ensuring that all other team members have the opportunity to contribute

- Teams must identify a different student to take the roles of facilitator; materials manager; reporter; creative expert and lead linguist for each task. (more details about the different roles can be found on the Students' Handbook)

- The Challenge is open to all students in Years 8, 9 and 10 and a team can include members from more than one year group

- Schools can enter as many teams as they like but individual students are not allowed to participate in more than 1 team

- Teams are encouraged to use a variety of languages across their chosen 5 tasks but **only one language per task**

- Students must use their oral as well as writing skills

- Teams are **encouraged to use a range of formats** and skills across the different tasks. There is no set rule for this but teams who show a variety of skills will do best

- After completing a task, reporters should write a report between 300 and 500 words

Suggestions for Teachers

It is up to schools to decide how to use the Challenge but here are some suggestions starting with those requiring the least teacher time!

- Advertise the Challenge via posters/newsletters/assemblies etc. and leave it to students to collect the necessary resources and organise their own entries

- Recruit some 6th formers to advertise the Challenge and supervise students' entries. This could be part of prefect duties or count towards other schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award

- Run the Challenge with a whole class (divided into teams). Set the tasks during lesson time as a cross-curricular project, perhaps towards the end of term

- Run the Challenge as an after-school or lunchtime club

- Run the Challenge over a few weeks during form time/tutor period

- Run the Challenge during an activity day/week when the school timetable has been suspended

- Add electronic copies of the Languages Challenge to the school VLE

- Help your students organise themselves, set a shared calendar and on-line forum to discuss ideas

- Hold some "how are you doing?" sessions, to allow students to discuss their progress and come up with solutions for any challenges collaboratively

Language Challenge Key Values

The following values are printed on each of the Task Information Sheets. We hope teachers will refer students back to these where appropriate to help promote a productive work ethic as students complete the tasks.

1. **Team work:** Each member of the team will have different skills to contribute. These could include a language they speak; a particular piece of computer software they know how to use, or a talent for artistic design. The best entries will be those from teams where each member has had a chance to contribute.

2. **Content:** All of the tasks require some element of learning. Judges will be looking for evidence of effort towards completing each task. Teams which carefully choose the information they use, produce multiple drafts, and use oral and written skills will do far better than those which simply cut and paste.

3. **Creativity:** Learning languages is not just about being able to order a drink in a foreign café. It's about gaining the skills to be imaginative and expressive with a whole new set of words. *Judges will be much more interested in the creativity of entries than whether spelling and grammar are 100% perfect.*

The winning teams will be invited to an award ceremony. Date to be confirmed.

The deadline for submitting entries is 3 May 2017.

To submit an entry, please complete a copy of the Submission and Entry form for each individual team. Send them with the competed tasks to:

routes@soas.ac.uk

or

Routes into Languages
SOAS
Thornhaugh Street
London WC1H 0XG

Tasks should be submitted together whenever possible. In the case when some files are in hardcopies and some in electronic format, this should be specified in the space provided. Please ensure that all tasks are clearly labelled to avoid delays in judging.

Evaluation and Feedback

Your assistance with evaluating the impact of our activities is most appreciated. A copy of our pre-activity questionnaire can be found on the student booklet. Please ask your students to complete it before they start on the Challenge and then post or email the completed (scanned) copies to the address provided above.

Languages Challenge Submission Form

One copy of this form must be completed and sent **with** the Submission form below for each team. Forms submitted separately will not be accepted.

The deadline for entries is **Wednesday 3 May 2017**.

Section 1: Information about the school

School: _____

School contact name: _____

School contact email: _____

School contact telephone: _____

Team Name: _____

Section 2: Team members

Please complete for each team member:

Name: _____ School Year: _____ Gender: **M / F**

Name: _____ School Year: _____ Gender: **M / F**

Name: _____ School Year: _____ Gender: **M / F**

Name: _____ School Year: _____ Gender: **M / F**

Name: _____ School Year: _____ Gender: **M / F**

Name: _____ School Year: _____ Gender: **M / F**

Name: _____ School Year: _____ Gender: **M / F**

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Name: _____ School Year: _____ Gender: **M / F**

Please feel free to photocopy this page if more than one team is taking part in the Challenge.